



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **JACKSONVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 6 1/2 YEARS PRISON AFTER CHILD PORNOGRAPHY GUILTY PLEA**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A Jacksonville resident was sentenced Thursday in federal district court to six and one-half years prison and three years supervised release after pleading guilty Nov. 5 to child pornography charges.

Scott Heath, 28, was indicted in August on one criminal count for possessing more than 300 pornographic images of children and one criminal count of distribution of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, sections 2252 and 2252(a).

Heath was also ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment. Upon completion of his sentence, Heath will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

The sentencing follows an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents operating under the agency's Operation Predator national anti-child sex exploitation initiative.

A search warrant was served on Heath's residence Jan. 27, 2004 based upon information that Heath was downloading and distributing child pornography. At the time of the warrant, ICE special agents seized a computer and media that forensic analysis determined to contain the pornography. Heath was arrested at his residence Aug. 19.

On Nov. 5, Heath pleaded guilty to count one of the indictment before Judge Adams in the Middle District of Florida.

"Child sex predators like this can no longer hide in the anonymity of cyberspace," said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Ray Connolly, who leads ICE criminal investigations here, in Tampa and in all of north Florida. "We remain committed to investigating and arresting those people who exploit and harm children. These predators may think it's just a picture, but there's always a child who has been permanently hurt and scarred in the making of these images."

The arrest and conviction of Heath comes under Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,900 individuals, including 188 in Florida.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*